



***Embassy of the United States of America***  
***Port Louis, Mauritius***  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**You are the next generation of African Leaders**  
**Apply for the 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders**

**Port-Louis, October 6, 2014:** The U.S. Government invites young African leaders aged between 25 and 35 years old to apply to become Mandela Washington Fellows in 2015. It will be an unparalleled opportunity for selected participants to:

- + Interact with President Obama at a Presidential Summit in Washington, D.C.
- + Participate in a 6-week leadership and mentoring program at a U.S. institution.
- + Meet with U.S. government, civic, and business leaders.
- + Be a part of a dynamic network and have opportunities for continued leadership and career enhancement.

Applications will be available from October 7 to November 5, 2014 at the link below.

Selection panels will use the following criteria to evaluate applications (not in order of importance):

- A proven record of leadership and accomplishment in public service, business and entrepreneurship, or civic engagement.
- A demonstrated commitment to public or community service, volunteerism, or mentorship.
- The ability to work cooperatively in diverse groups and respect the opinions of others.
- Strong social and communication skills.
- An energetic, positive attitude.
- Demonstrated knowledge, interest and professional experience in the sector/track selected.
- A commitment to return to Africa and apply leadership skills and training to benefit the applicant's country and/or community after they return home.

For more information and to apply: <https://youngafricanleaders.state.gov/>

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

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The Embassy of the United States of America selected three Seychellois for the 2014 Fellowship.

**About the Mandela Washington Fellows for Young African Leaders 2014:**

*Fatoumata Sylla: Public Management Track, Howard University*

Fatoumata Sylla currently serves as Director General in the Executive Office of the President of the Republic. She previously worked for the Department of Youth serving as the Senior Policy Analyst and later as the Director General of Youth Affairs. Fatoumata firmly believes in youth empowerment and the power of leading by example. She has helped establish a mentorship project for youth and by youth with support from the U.S. Embassy.

*Christopher Lespoir: Business & Entrepreneurship Track, University of Texas-Austin*

Christopher Lespoir has over 16 years of experience in the aviation industry. During his fellowship at the University of Texas-Austin, Christopher became a member of the Alamo City Chamber of Commerce. He will work to strengthen the ties between the Seychelles Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Alamo City Chamber of Commerce.

*Sheryl Vangadasmy: Public Management, University of Minnesota*

Sheryl Vangadasmy is an elected representative of the Mont Buxton constituency in the National Assembly. She is dedicated to ensuring that Seychelles continues to enjoy peace and stability and that her fellow citizens aspire to positive change towards the betterment of the country. She stayed in the US for a further eight weeks to intern at the National Democratic Institute in Washington, D.C.

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